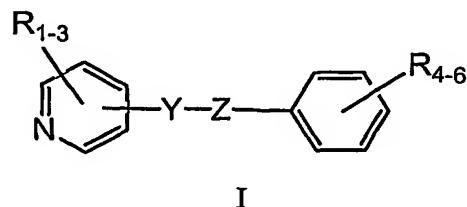


1. A method of treating or preventing vascular disease or promoting vascular growth or development in a patient, said method comprising administering to the patient a compound of formula (I):



wherein,

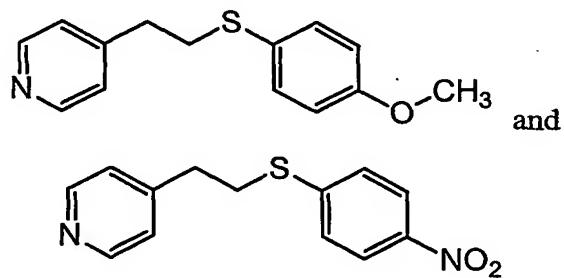
Y is selected from CH_2 , $\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)$, CH_2CH_2 , $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}$, and $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}-\text{C}$;

Z is selected from S, SO , SO_2 , O, and NR^7 ;

each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , and R_6 are, independently, selected from H, halide, CF_3 , C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{1-3} alkoxy, OH, SH, NO_2 , CO_2H , SO_3H , and CN; and

R^7 is selected from H and C_{1-3} alkyl.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the structure of said compound is selected from:



3. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient has or is at risk of developing a disease or condition of the aorta.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said disease or condition is congenital dysplasia of the aorta.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said congenital dysplasia of the aorta is coarctation of the aorta.

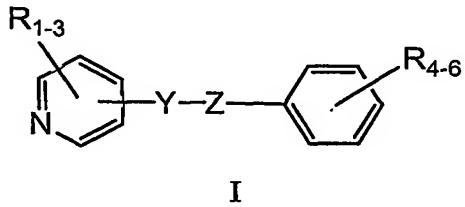
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient has or is at risk of developing ischemia.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said ischemia is myocardial, cerebral, mesenteric, or limb ischemia; said ischemia results from a wound, vascular occlusion, or vascular stenosis; or said patient has suffered or is at risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said patient has peripheral vascular disease.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said vascular growth or development is at the site of a wound in said patient; in a tissue that has been surgically implanted into said patient; or at the site of a surgically-created anastomosis of said patient.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I:



wherein,

Y is selected from CH₂, C(CH₃), CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH=CH, and CH₂CH=C;

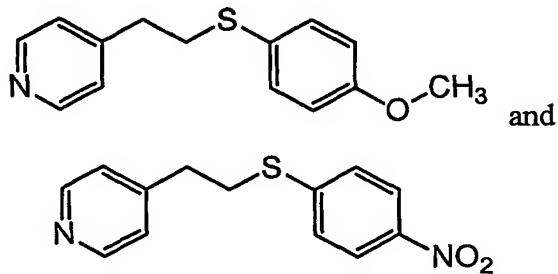
Z is selected from S, SO, SO₂, O, and NR⁷;

each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are, independently, selected from H, halide, CF₃, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, OH, SH, NO₂, CO₂H, SO₃H, and CN; and

R⁷ is selected from H and C₁₋₃ alkyl;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the structure of said compound is selected from:



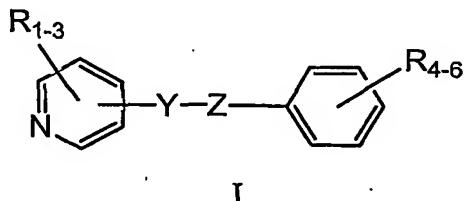
12. A method for determining whether a candidate gene is a component of or affects a molecular pathway involved in vasculogenesis, said method comprising (i) treating a gridlock mutant embryo with a gridlock suppressor, and (ii) determining the effect of said suppressor on the expression of said gene, wherein detection of an altered level of expression of said gene, relative to the level in an untreated gridlock mutant embryo, indicates that the candidate gene is a component of or affects a molecular pathway involved in vasculogenesis.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the expression of said gene is analyzed by *in situ* hybridization or real-time polymerase chain reaction.

14. A method for identifying a gene in a molecular pathway involved in vasculogenesis, said method comprising (i) treating a gridlock mutant embryo with a gridlock suppressor, (ii) extracting RNA from the treated embryo, (iii) reverse transcribing the extracted RNA into cDNA, (iv) contacting the cDNA with an array comprising an oligonucleotide library, and (v) identifying any genes corresponding to oligonucleotides of the array to which the cDNA from the treated embryo binds in a manner that is different from cDNA obtained from an untreated gridlock mutant embryo.

15. A method for identifying a component of a molecular pathway involved in vasculogenesis, said method comprising (i) contacting a preparation comprising a candidate component with a matrix comprising a gridlock suppressor, and (ii) identifying molecules that specifically bind to the gridlock suppressor.

16. The method of claim 12, 14, or 15, wherein said gridlock suppressor is within formula (I):



wherein,

Y is selected from CH₂, C(CH₃), CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH=CH, and CH₂CH-C;

Z is selected from S, SO, SO₂, O, and NR⁷;

each of R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are, independently, selected from H, halide, CF₃, C₁₋₃ alkyl, C₁₋₃ alkoxy, OH, SH, NO₂, CO₂H, SO₃H, and CN; and

R⁷ is selected from H and C₁₋₃ alkyl.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the structure of said gridlock suppressor is selected from:

